MICHIGAN PROBATE JUDGES ASSOCIATION

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Senator Hoon-Yung Hopgood Michigan State Senate P.O. Box 30036 Lansing, MI 48909

Re: SB 989

Dear Senator Hopgood:

I am writing on behalf of the Michigan Probate Judges Association (MPJA), regarding the above-referenced bill. At its most recent quarterly meeting, the MPJA Executive Board voted to oppose this proposed legislation.

The Board opposes this bill because, the Child Custody Act already contains numerous provisions to address physical, mental, and emotional risks to children when fashioning custody and parenting time orders. In fact, the law authorizes a court to completely suspend parenting time or to award sole custody to one parent when the other parent poses a risk to their child.

The Board, also, raised some concerns raised about the constitutionality of the proposed language, particularly because it seems in conflict with parental presumptions recently upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

If you wish to discuss MPJA's position further, your staff can contact us through our lobbyist, Bill Kandler at 482-4044. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter, and we look forward to working with you in the future in areas of mutual interest.

Sincerely,

Hon. Karen Tighe President, MPJA

Sen. Rick Jones, Chair Senate Judiciary Committee William Kandler